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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC radio stations, Wednesday, November 14, 1935.

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Hello Folks. Well, this is the 14th of November and Thanksgiving only two weeks away. I suppose most of you either have a good-sized turkey fattening, or if you live in town, your dealer is on the lookout for a nice bird for your Thanksgiving dinner. No doubt many of you have a big pumpkin picked out for your pumpkin pies, and potatoes and turnips and all the other good things are ready for a big Thanksgiving dinner with all the family gathered around the table. That's my idea of a good time, and to my mind, Thanksgiving is the best of all our National holidays.

Before I forget it, I want to page Mr. J. M. Thomas. On October 28th, Mr. Thomas wrote a 3-page letter to the Department asking for information about the Jerusalem artichoke but failed to give his address, and the clerk who opened the letter did not notice that the address was missing so threw the envelope with the postmark in the waste basket. Now if Mr. J. M. Thomas, who wrote the 3-page letter to the Department about Jerusalem artichokes, will send me his postoffice address, I'll be glad to tell him all I know on the subject of artichokes.

Speaking of artichokes, we have had a great many inquiries about the possibilities of the Jerusalem artichoke lately, and to all you folks who have visions of great profits from growing the tubers of *Helianthus tuberosus*, which being translated into plain English, means a sunflower with tubers growing at its roots, let me simply say that for the present, at least, the Jerusalem artichoke has not been elevated to a high plane or position in the plant kingdom, but is just plain Jerusalem artichoke used as food by the Indians, discovered and carried to France and to Italy by the early explorers of America, and for many years grown as a feed for hogs in the Middle West and elsewhere.

Experiments have shown that the tubers of the Jerusalem artichoke offer some possibilities as a source of levulose sugar, the same type of sugar as is found in many sweet fruits and in honey, also for the manufacture of industrial alcohol. But, it may be a long time before factories for the manufacture of these products are built, and even when the factories are established, the prices that it will be possible for the manufacturers to pay will not make the growing of the tubers any gold mine. At present our scientific workers are trying to develop better varieties, varieties that will produce a heavier tonnage to the acre, and varieties that will produce a higher percentage of sugar, or industrial alcohol. So, my advice is, don't get excited about the Jerusalem artichoke as a commercial crop in a big way, not for the present, at least.

This is the season for chrysanthemums. Chrysanthemums in the florists shops, chrysanthemums at the football games, and best of all hardy chrysanthemums blooming in our gardens. People look at the mums

blooming in my garden and their question invariably is, "How do you grow such lovely mums right in the open?" First of all, I get good varieties. Varieties that are hardy, or, at least those that will go through the winter in a coldframe. I grow new plants each year, either by dividing the new shoots that come up around the stems of the old plants, or by cutting off the tips of the new stems, and rooting them in a sand bed. I keep the small plants well headed back and watered during the summer and then feed them well for about four or five weeks before they bloom. Those are a few of the main essentials, but if you desire more information, just drop me a post card with your name and address plainly written and the word chrysanthemum and I will send you a copy of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1311, entitled "Chrysanthemums for the Home", and if you are having trouble with the pesky little aphids or plant lice that insist upon making their home on the stems and flower-buds of your mums, or, any one of the 15 or so different kinds of insects that attack chrysanthemums, I would suggest that you write to the Bureau of Entomology of this Department and you will be supplied with information on how to control the insect enemies of chrysanthemums.

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